crippled Visva Bharati inmates in Santiniketan and it has been mentioned that Vishva Bharati still retains its special character.

(c) The problems being faced by teachers, students and other inmates of Santiniketan chiefly relate to residential/hostel accommodation and civic amenities.

(d) Visva-Bharati has a course in Tagore Studies. It consists of extracts from Tagore's writings and lectures on those writings. The course is compulsory for all the students obtaining admission to B.A./B.Sc. irrespective of the subject of their study.

Setting up of National Nutrition Panel

1147. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Nutrition Panel to ensure minimum nutrition supplies to all children up to the age of 6 years has been set up under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, what is the estimated total number of children forming the focus group of this panel and the criteria for identification of the beneficiaries of the scheme; and what it its modus operandi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) The proposal to constitute National Nutrition Council in the Planning Commission is under consideration of the Planning Commission at present. As envisaged under National Nutrition Policy (NNP), this Council will be the highest body for overseeing the implementation of the NNP.

(b) The National Nutrition Policy addresses itself to population suffering from various degrees of under-nutrition and malnutrition. The Policy contains a comprehensive approach to tackle the problems of malnutrition and under-nutrition in the country through a set of direct interventions and indirect policy instruments involving long term institutional and structural changes. The direct interventions identified are expanding the Social Safety Net, Fortification of essential foods, popularisation of low cost nutritious food and Control of Micro-Nutrient deficiencies amongst vulnerable groups. The indirect policy instruments are mainly aimed at providing food security, improving the dietary pattern through production and demonstration, improving the purchasing power and Public Distribution System, improving the status of women, ensuring enhanced community participation and developing the nutritional surveillance system.

It may be mentioned that the beneficiaries will actually get covered under different Sectoral Schemes consistent with the objectives of the National Nutrition Policy.

Theft of Buddha idols from H.P.

1148. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that with the opening of the inner line border areas to the domestic and foreign tourists in the tribal district Pakong Peo-(Kinnaur-H.P.), Buddha idols and antiques worth crores of rupees have been stolen from the temples;

(b) if so, whether Government made any study with regard to idols and antiques stolen so far with estimated value; and the modus operandi of the persons (officials and non-officials) found to be involved in the racket; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCA-

TION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Panel on admissions in private professional institutions

1149. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a Panel to frame guidelines for admission and fees for private professional institutions; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in their judgement of 4-2-1993 in Unnikrishnan case has evolved a Scheme for regulating admissions and fee structure in Private Professional Institutions. The Regulations to be issued by the All India Council for Technical Educations (AICTE) pertaining to technical education depend upon the final approval by the Government to the the Draft Guidelines already framed by Department of Education.

Functioning of new Navodaya Vidyalayas

1150. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Indian Express of 26th August, 1993 captioned "Navodaya Schools dream turns Sour";

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed the success so for achieved in the implementation of the "Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya's" scheme in different states in the light of this report; if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what further steps and projects are contemplated for providing such vidyalayas to districts where none has been set up so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Press Report related to the cases of death of Navodaya Vidyalaya students that occurred in different schools due to various causes. While the Report has referred to the Navodaya Vidyalaya scheme as an experiment that has worked well and popular with the State Governments, it has also highlighted the laxity in the care and custody of the children by the school authorities. Government are deeply concerned about such incidents of death of students. The following measures are being taken to strengthen implementation of the scheme as a result of an internal review:—

—Setting up in-service training arrangements for teachers directly by the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti.

—Each school to be subjected to detailed inspection every year by a panel of 3 independent educationists and follow-up action.

—Construction programme of permanent school buildings to be strengthened by positioning qualified and experienced Engineers at Headquarters and Regional Offices.

—New Regional Office at Patna being set up to ease the workload in this region and facilitate effective monitoring, inspection and control of schools.

—Recruitment Rules for teaching and non-teaching staff being reviewed/revised in the light of experience of shortcomings.